

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of determining disease status of a patient suffering from a disease characterized by aberrant expression of one or more intracellular complexes, the method comprising the steps of:

measuring directly in a patient sample an amount of each of one or more intracellular complexes;

comparing each such amount to its corresponding amount in a reference sample; and

correlating differences in the amounts from the patient sample and the respective corresponding amounts from the reference sample to the disease status the patient.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said patient sample is a fixed tissue sample, a frozen tissue sample, or circulating epithelial cells.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said one or more intracellular complexes are selected from the group consisting of 14-3-3//BAD, BID//BAX, BAX//BAX, Bcl-X_L//BAD, Bcl-2//BAD, 14-3-3//BID, BID//BAK, BAX//Bcl-2, Bcl-X_L//BIK, Bcl-2//BIK, NF-kB//I-kB, BID//Bcl-2, Bcl-X_L//BID, Bcl-2//BID, FADD//caspase-9, BID//Bcl-X_L, Bcl-X_L//Hrk, Bcl-2//Hrk, TRADD//caspase-9, BID//Al/Bfl-1, Bcl-X_L//BIM, Bcl-2//BIM, Apaf-1//caspase-9, Bcl-X_L//Noxa, Bcl-2//Noxa, Bcl-X_L//Bmf, Bcl-2//Bmf, Bcl-X_L//Puma, Bcl-2//Puma, Bcl-X_L//Bcl-G, Bcl-2//Bcl-G, Bcl-X_L//NIP3, Bcl-2//NIP3, Bcl-X_L//Nix, and Bcl-2//Nix.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said one or more intracellular complexes are selected from the group consisting of 14-3-3//BAD, Bcl-2//BAD, 14-3-3//BID, BAX//Bcl-2, Bcl-2//BIK BID//Bcl-2, Bcl-2//BID, Bcl-2//Hrk, Bcl-2//BIM, Bcl-2//Noxa, Bcl-2//Bmf, Bcl-2//Puma, Bcl-2//Bcl-G, Bcl-2//NIP3, and Bcl-2//Nix.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said disease is a cancer.

6-11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein said cancer is breast cancer, ovarian cancer, colorectal cancer, or prostate cancer.

13-15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 12, wherein each of said one or more intracellular complexes are determined by the steps of:

contacting said one or more intracellular complexes in said patient sample with a cleaving probe having a cleavage-inducing moiety ~~with an effective proximity~~, and with one or more binding compounds each having one or more molecular tags attached thereto by a cleavable linkage wherein the cleavable linkage is susceptible to cleavage when in proximity to the cleavage-inducing moiety, the molecular tags of different binding compounds having different separation characteristics, such that the cleaving probe and the one or more binding compounds specifically bind to their respective intracellular complexes and the cleavable linkages of the one or more binding compounds within the effective proximity of the cleavage-inducing moiety are cleaved, thereby releasing one or more of the one or more molecular tags; and

separating and identifying the released molecular tags to determine the presence or absence or the amount of said one or more intracellular complexes in said patient sample.

17-20. (Canceled).

21. (Previously presented) A method of determining a status of a cancer in a patient, the

method comprising the steps of:

simultaneously measuring in a sample from the patient amounts of at least one intracellular complex selected from the group consisting of a first complex comprising a Bcl-2 protein and a BH3-only protein and a second complex comprising a 14-3-3 protein and a BAD protein;

comparing each such amount to its corresponding amount in a reference sample; and
correlating differences in the amounts from the patient sample and the respective corresponding amounts from the reference sample to the disease status of the patient.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21 wherein said at least one intracellular complex is determined by the steps of:

contacting said at least one intracellular complex in said patient sample with a cleaving probe having a cleavage-inducing moiety ~~with an effective proximity~~, and with one or more binding compounds each having one or more molecular tags attached thereto by a cleavable linkage wherein the cleavable linkage is susceptible to cleavage when in proximity to the cleavage-inducing moiety, the molecular tags of different binding compounds having different separation characteristics, such that the cleaving probe and the one or more binding compounds specifically bind to their respective intracellular complexes and the cleavable linkages of the one or more binding compounds within the effective proximity of the cleavage-inducing moiety are cleaved, thereby releasing one or more of the one or more molecular tags; and

separating and identifying the released molecular tags to determine the presence or absence or the amount of said at least one intracellular complex in said patient sample.

23. (Canceled).